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12 August 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Meeting with the President's Foreign Intelligence
Advisory Board (PFIAB)

1. The DCI met with the PFIAB in room 297 of the EOB at 0930 hours on Friday, 9 August. In addition to the Director, all members of the Board were present. Admiral Taylor was present for item 2. Messrs. Bross, Coyne and Ash and General Cassidy were also present.

2. The DCI opened the meeting by introducing Admiral Taylor who was present to discuss the National Intelligence Resources Board (NIRB). The Director characterized this as a most important development. He was confident that the creation of this Board constituted a major contribution to the solution of the problem of how best to implement his coordinating responsibilities. He reminded the Board that the cost of intelligence activities is now estimated at something in excess of

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[REDACTED] The Appropriations Committee of the Senate has become independently aware of this figure and we can anticipate increasing attention and concern from Congress in intelligence programs of this magnitude. The Director's personal problem in connection with efforts to explain and rationalize these expensive activities is of course immensely complicated by the fact that approximately [REDACTED] resources involved belong to the Secretary of Defense. The Director felt that the new Board would be of enormous assistance to him in carrying out his responsibilities.

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3. Admiral Taylor then described the Board. He explained that its purpose was to advise the Director about expensive and important activities or elements of programs and enable him to comment intelligently

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on the relative need for particular activities in the light of their cost and relative effectiveness. He explained that the members of the Board included the Directors of DIA and INR, who are the two producers of finished intelligence in addition to CIA. He pointed out that in addition to establishing a DCI position on various programs, the presence of these two officials on the Board should serve as catalysts within their respective departments to establish the positions of State and Defense respectively. Admiral Taylor said that the Board would try to stay away from judgements involving activities which relate primarily to military readiness, such as VQ squadrons, some of which are already carried as non-add items in the CIP. Admiral Taylor referred to the existence of the TOD of intelligence resources which he thought would be helpful. He concluded with a summary of the findings of the Board on the [REDACTED] project and a statement of the Board's decision to undertake an assessment of Project 482. 25X1A

4. Dr. Langer was told in response to a question that NSA had not been included in the membership of the Board as it is not a producer of intelligence. The Director, NSA will obviously appear when matters of concern to NSA are discussed.

5. The Chairman wanted the DCI's views as to his role in the resource field generally and how the NIRB fitted into this role. The Director reminded General Taylor that the proposal to establish the NIRB had been approved by the Secretaries of State and Defense, both of whom were specifically consulted in connection with the proposal to establish the Board. The DCI sits as a member of the Executive Committee of the NRO, and the NIRB will shape his position on matters coming before the Executive Committee. The DCI is represented in the review of the CIP and the CCP, and the NIRB will determine his position on contentious matters arising during the course of these reviews. The Chairman wanted to know whether any new scheme had been worked out in the Defense Department to consolidate the Secretary of Defense's control over intelligence activities. He was apparently not particularly surprised to be told that no such arrangement had so far developed or been proposed. Dr. Baker wanted to know whether any new staff arrangements were contemplated in connection with the Board's activities. Admiral Taylor said that he proposed to use existing components of the

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community and the Agency, including USIB committees, at least for the time being. Both Dr. Baker and Dr. Land expressed very considerable interest and enthusiasm for the Board which appears to have been shared by the Chairman who said that he and other members of the PFIAB would like a further briefing and an opportunity for discussion of the Board's role and modus operandi at some convenient time. In response to a question from Mr. Pace, the Director explained that his authority over the requirements which intelligence resources are designed to serve is virtually unchallenged. The Secretary of Defense continues to manage these resources but looks to the DCI to tell him how the resources should be used and for what purpose. Dr. Land took the occasion to deplore the tendency of the Government to ignore or forget the deliberations through which decisions are initially developed. The conclusions of the Board on [REDACTED] as described by Admiral Taylor seemed to him (Dr. Land) to be covering some fairly old ground.

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6. The Director then took up the proposed agenda item relating to intelligence support to the negotiations with the North Vietnamese in Paris. He described the daily briefings of the delegation by [REDACTED] and also the various kinds of support the Agency has rendered to the delegation through communications, security, safe houses, chauffeurs, etc.

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7. The next item on the agenda was a discussion of the practice of disseminating CIA situation reports and appraisals. The Director explained the differences between appraisals and situation reports and the circumstances under which appraisals are disseminated. He agreed that there was a certain ambiguity in the wording of the legend on the appraisals which appears to constitute somewhat of a disclaimer of responsibility for the views expressed. He said that new wording would be worked out to clear up this difficulty and make it clear that views expressed were those of a responsible CIA field representative which had the concurrence of at least the chief of station. The Director explained that these appraisals were disseminated only with the approval of the local embassy.

8. There followed some discussion of the practice and problem of dissemination of raw intelligence, a practice which started or at least became serious with the appearance of the Kennedy administration. There

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was some discussion of current practices in the White House relating to the dissemination of information and Rostow's role, etc. The Director said that he personally did not know how to stop the White House from asking for and receiving raw information.

9. The Director explained that the Rusk report on overseas voluntary activities had not been formally distributed. The Director had learned informally that the Secretary of State does not propose to release this report but will hand it on to his successor for review and implementation.

10. In discussing the item on surveillance of North Vietnam, the Director described the limitations on surveillance. He identified

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is with cloud cover. Present coverage is on the borderline of what is acceptable. The only way to get under the cloud cover is with tactical reconnaissance vehicles, either with manned aircraft or with drones. Mr. Land wanted to know what the cost of tactical reconnaissance using drones would be.

11. The Director then raised the question of what could be done to ensure the security of intelligence documents on file in the White House in the light of the proposed history of the Johnson administration. In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr. Coyne explained that PFIAB records had been exempted from the archives withdrawn from the Government to establish the Eisenhower and Kennedy libraries. He anticipated no difficulty in exempting the PFIAB from inclusion in the Johnson library. This, however, does not provide any protection to intelligence documents or records in the possession of other elements of the White House, including the President's own personal files.

12. Mr. Pace urged the Director to consider the use of computers in the intelligence community.

13. The Chairman then explained that the next session of the Board would be devoted to hearing General Carroll's explanation of the

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Appropriations Committee's report on DIA. The Chairman asked the DCI for his views about the significance and accuracy of this report. The Director explained that his attention had been called to this report by Congressman Mahon. After investigation the Director had concluded that the report had been compiled by people who were probably intelligent and competent but had little or no understanding of intelligence or intelligence procedures. Many of the conclusions of the report, therefore, rested on a misunderstanding of the significance of certain factual statements which on their face might have suggested invidious conclusions but which in fact had no particular significance. As an example, the Director described the allegation to the effect that a large number of unevaluated reports had accumulated in DIA files. This suggested that DIA was way behind in its assessment of current intelligence developments. In fact this material was all either initially collected for background purposes or had been subjected to screening. The conclusions of the report had been used to beat the DIA in what the Director had felt was an unfair way. He explained that he had written Congressman Mahon to say that he thought the criticism in the report exaggerated and based to some considerable degree on misapprehension. He explained that there are obviously problems in DIA involving lack of continuity in the top management, ambiguities in authority, etc., etc. On the other hand, he did not think that DIA should be held accountable for all the deficiencies identified in the Appropriations Committee report.

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